



The Jewish

Gaily Forward

Tevet + Sh'vat + Adar 5769 ■ January + February 2009

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

Social Justice Community Wide Havdallah

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 6:00 P.M.

POTLUCK DINNER

The program will include intergenerational workshops that explore social justice. An interactive Havdallah program closes the evening. Contact Kendra Lubalin, kendra@shaarzahav.org, for more details.

Tour of Museo ItaloAmericano

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 11:00-NOON

Join Dr. Francesco Spagnolo in a special Sha'ar Zahav tour of the Museo ItaloAmericano exhibit: *Il Ghetto: Forging Italian Jewish Identities 1516 - 1870* at Fort Mason, Building C. RSVP 415-861-6932. Suggested Donation: \$10 to benefit the Museo and Sha'ar Zahav.

Music in the Mishkan

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 4:00 PM

Join us for "*Juon for the Road*," the first of three performances, with Randall Weiss on violin, Victoria Ehrlich on cello, and Marilyn Thompson on piano. More info on page 5.

New Member Welcoming Shabbat

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 8:15 PM

Please join us as we honor those who have joined as members of our

(continued on page 4)

The Shul is Alive—with the Sound of Music

If your idea of synagogue sound is the cacophony of tired voices stumbling through lifeless prayers, you haven't been to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav recently! This spring, Sha'ar Zahav sings with an amazing set of musical performances.

First is Music in the Mishkan, celebrating its tenth anniversary with three chamber music concerts highlighting the Jewish composers Paul Juon, Ernest Bloch, and Robert Schumann. Performed by talented musicians, including our own Randy Weiss on violin, these concerts are hot tickets (the concert March 8, cosponsored with the 24th Annual Jewish Music Festival, is sure to sell out!)

In February, we present Cantor Unplugged, a showcase for Sha'ar Zahav's very own Cantor Sharon Bernstein. Cantor Bernstein, who was raised in Israel, is a scholar of Yiddish and Italian Jewish music, and has a deep fondness and appreciation for the liturgical tunes of our cousins to the south, the Jews of Morocco. Her concert will range across time and space, mixing the mournful tunes of Yiddishkeit with the deep beats of Ladino and Mizrahi music and the upbeat tempos of contemporary Israeli sound.

If all these concerts don't fill your music appetite, be sure to mark your calendars now for Purim and Pride, when the Sha'ar Zahav chorus, led by rabbinic intern (and amazing tunester) Reuben Zellman, lead us in song (hilarious song, in the case of Purim). Even better, join them: the chorus is open to anyone who commits to come and sing.

After all, what is unique about Sha'ar Zahav is our participatory services. Not all of us can play the violin like Randy, but we all can sing—yes, you can! When asked about the chorus, Reuben explains, "one of most beautiful aspects of the chorus is that many of our members have not ever sung in public before. They have shared with me that it is a transformative experience. A lot of people think that they can't sing. If the chorus can accomplish one thing, it's to get out the message that any member of the shul can sing with us."

Even if you can't commit to the chorus' schedule, you can still come to shul and sing. When she is on the pulpit, Cantor Bernstein teaches us new *nusach* (liturgical tunes) to familiar prayers. And so do lay leaders—if you haven't heard Adon Olam sung to "I Will Survive," you need to get your tuchus to services!

When asked about her experience at Sha'ar Zahav, Cantor Bernstein says, "leading services here is exhilarating—the walls rebound, vibrate, dance along. There is such a huge breadth and depth of musical possibility: classical, klezmer, hazzanut, camp songs, new compositions by members, and music from all over the Jewish world. This is a community that loves to sing and sing along."

So, nu, what are you waiting for? Join in!

Politics and Judaism



TWO THOUSAND years ago, in a world dominated by gladiator games and a callous disregard for human life, the great rabbinic sage, Hillel, uttered these famous words: "*Im Ein Ani Li Mi Li*—If I am not for myself, who am I," "*U'k'sheani l'atzmi, mah ani*—If I am for myself only, what am I."—"*V'im lo achshav, eimatai*—If not now, when."

In a few weeks time, we will be inaugurating a new president and administration. Anticipation, Hope, Promise, Vision, Authenticity fill the air, the powerful spirit of "Yes, we can!" It's the answer spoken by young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, black, white, Latino, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, disabled and not disabled—Americans who sent a message to the world that we have never been a collection of Red States and Blue States: we are, and always will be, the United States of America.

Professor Arnold Eisen is the Rosh Yeshiva of the Jewish Theological Seminary, where my Conservative colleagues are trained. As the first dean not to be an ordained rabbi, Professor Eisen understands how politics and Judaism intertwine. He writes that when we unscroll the Torah, "it becomes apparent, from the opening verses onwards, that concern with politics is as old as the Jewish people—and as complex as the rest of Jewish tradition. We cannot look to this or any other text for simple or straightforward answers to contemporary issues. Such answers have never been available. But Torah does provide guidelines that can and should influence our political thinking today as always."

Pursuing Justice at Sha'ar Zahav

Politics is part of our Jewish life. And it's an important part of life at Sha'ar Zahav. Here, congregants participate in activist political work through the local organizing committee of the San Francisco Organizing Project. We will be focusing on social justice in the upcoming community Havdallah on January 10. And this January, eleven of our teenagers will be traveling with me to Washington D.C. to learn how to lobby politicians. They will be taught by leaders from the Reform Movement's

crown jewel, the Religious Action Center, and they will actually have the opportunity to lobby our congresswomen— Nancy Pelosi, Jackie Speier, and Barbara Lee—on matters such as health care, education, poverty, civil liberties, war, and Israel.

Our very congregation was the child of a marriage between religion and politics. To paraphrase Rabbi Yoel Kahn, it felt "strange to organize a shul around sexual orientation," but so we did.

With the passage of Prop 8, and the release of the film *Milk* on the thirtieth anniversary yartzeit of San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk, z"l, I am reminded of how nascent the young face of our liberation movement really is. Thirty years old, barely a generation, and we are five percentage points away from the civil right to legal marriage.

While legal marriage is not a religious right, many of you have had thoughtful, well-planned weddings, weddings that are spiritually transformative in every way, celebrated by loved ones and the larger progressive Jewish community. And I have had the sacred privilege of officiating at the Jewish weddings of some of you, weddings which have enhanced the connection between politics and Judaism for the participants.

For example, Sha'ar Zahav's president, Alex Ingersoll, and his husband (our new first lady!) Martin Tannenbaum, chose to marry in Provincetown, MA in part because Martin was so instrumental in helping Marriage Equality pass in Massachusetts. At their wedding, as at the many other weddings I have been performing these last months, I passed out a blessing for all to recite: *Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitz'votav v'tzivanu lir'dof tzedek*, Blessed are you, Eternal our God, who commands us to pursue justice.

Truly, a Jewish wedding enhances the power of the civil marriage—even if you had a "shotgun" civil wedding before November 4, consider experiencing your inheritance through a Jewish wedding this year.

There are so many ways for us to become involved as Jews in politics. My latest endeavor to walk this talk is by accepting an invitation to sit on the Reform Movement's Commission on Social Action as one of the 15 CCAR

(continued on page 5)

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street
San Francisco CA 94103

VOICE 415-861-6932

FAX 415-861-6081

EMAIL office@shaarzahav.org

WEB <http://www.shaarzahav.org>

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



Sha'ar Zahav Staff

RABBI Camille Shira Angel

(x301) rabbianangel@aol.com

CANTOR Sharon Bernstein

(x313) cantorbernstein@gmail.com

RABBINIC INTERN Reuben Zellman

(x306) reuben@shaarzahav.org

COUNSELOR Randy Weled

randy@shaarzahav.org

ADMINISTRATOR Regina Wurst

(x308) regina@shaarzahav.org

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S AND

FAMILY EDUCATION Rebecca Weiner

(x302) Rebecca@shaarzahav.org

RABBI'S ASSISTANT AND

MEMBERSHIP LIASON Greg Lawrence

(x303) greg@shaarzahav.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Shaun Hannan

(x304) shaun@shaarzahav.org

Officers

PRESIDENT Alex Ingersoll

ingersollax@earthlink.net

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT Karen Schiller

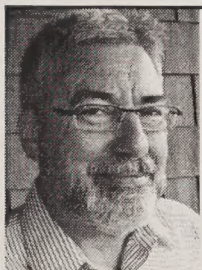
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT Laura Lowe

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT James Carlson

TREASURER Merle Malakoff

RECORDER Avi Goldberg

Tough Times



IT'S NOW OFFICIAL in Washington: we're in a recession, and, while we've been in a recession for over a year, it's likely to continue for a while. "Recession" is a word that brings fear and worry at the same time that our new administration promises change and hope for the future.

We're a community that usually focuses on moving forward. Our leadership retreat is even called "The Advance." But since we're officially "receding"—let's *look back*. After all, as Lisa Katz so eloquently reminded us during our post-Proposition 8 Ma'ariv service, one of the benefits of getting older is the gift of perspective.

As if to underline Lisa's point, Gus Van Sant's tour de force, *Milk*, has been released to wide acclaim—reminding us that hope and disappointment are so often paired, that it takes a community to create lasting change, and that we need each other to keep moving forward.

Sha'ar Zahav is now in our 32nd year. I first started attending services in 1979, just two years after our founding. For our shul, as for the larger gay community, these early days were a time of infinite possibilities and free spirit. *Milk* captured that time. *Of course*, three gay men could create a synagogue, rewrite the liturgy so we were no longer invisible, and decide what Jewish traditions to hold or to build.

But things changed quickly, and in the wrong direction. First we lost Harvey Milk, a gay Jewish man who focused on creating a more inclusive government. And then in the mid-'80s, AIDS began to strike down many more. Yet we did not recede.

Our community found enormous strength and resources. Political issues were set aside and we responded—with emotional support, with spiritual support, with financial and practical support. Our Bikkur Cholim efforts were at their strongest in providing rides, cooking, and sharing medical knowledge. When gay men were barred from blood banks, the women of our congregation organized blood drives for needed transfusions. And we went beyond caring for our

own. We set up monthly brunches for patients, families and caregivers in the AIDS Ward at Kaiser Hospital. Sha'ar Zahav was a model of a caring community at a time when the world felt so inhospitable and uncertain.

We lost so many. The names that we read each year at Yom Kippur reflect those numbers—far too many names for a synagogue that is so young. But those of us who survived grew stronger from those times and more determined to continue building our special and resilient community, our Sha'ar Zahav. For us. For those who died. Sha'ar Zahav survived because we had to. And even more remarkably, we grew from these sad challenges.

And now we're facing a terrible recession—possibly worse than even the elders among us can remember. Individual members will feel the effects most directly—some with serious consequences. Others may be relatively, well, immune. Having seen how we organized and supported one another during the early days of AIDS, I have great confidence in our ability to respond to this difficult challenge creatively and lovingly, both as individuals and as a community.

As with the last crisis, our shul will try to anticipate individual members' needs and as a community we will find ways to respond when asked. In January, we are hosting a job search support group. We are particularly mindful of providing healing and inspiration in each of our services. And we are looking to develop more social and learning events at Sha'ar Zahav for little or no cost—to bring us together. We remember that in tough times, the ability to share lifts us all up.

We are also looking for ways to do more with less. Our administrator, Regina Wurst and treasurer, Merle Malakoff, have already found ways to cut operating costs—and together with the Finance Committee and Va'ad, are developing contingency plans to assure we stay within our means.

And we are working to expand our funding base. While the results of our First Annual Chanukah gift auction are not yet known—after all, I'm writing to you, in early December—many of the bids are from (continued on page 8)

Va'ad Members

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Ora Prochovnick
Aaron Danzig
Manny Fishman
Jo Ellen Green Kaiser
Susan Lubeck
Shelli Rawlings-Fein
Amy Scharf
Craig Shear
Michael Tyler
Abi Weissman

Jewish Gaily Forward

EDITOR Jo Ellen Green Kaiser

(jgkaiser@earthlink.net)

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Rebecca Weiner (education); Shaun Hannon (donations, sponsorships) and Greg Lawrence (naches, lifecycle)

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE Batya Kalis, Karen Schiller, Howard Steiermann, Jonathan Williamson, Nina Wouk.

DESIGN AND LAYOUT Jonathan Wieder (design@JonathanWieder.com)

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published six times a year by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. Permission to reprint with attribution is granted. Articles reflect the opinion of their authors and not those of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. Proofing errors will be atoned for each Yom Kippur.

ADVERTISERS: contact Jo Ellen Green Kaiser at jgkaiser@earthlink.net or 415-939-0823. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav reserves the right to reject any ad.

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

(continued from page 1)

Sha'ar Zahav family in the last year. All are invited for to share in this joyous Shabbat ritual.

Cantor Unplugged II

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 8:00 PM

It's back! Cantor Sharon Bernstein and friends with some of her favorite music from across the Jewish (and non-Jewish) spectrum: art songs, musical theater, Yiddish, Israeli, Ladino, and more. Tickets are 10/members, \$15/non-members.

Meetings: Please Come!

CSZ-SFOP Organizing Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

It is one of the central religious obligations in Judaism; pursue justice. One way to do this at Sha'ar Zahav is to join the CSZ San Francisco Organizing Project Committee meeting. Please come discuss how to follow up on our work on Prop 8, and explore other issues such as caring for elders in our community, health care access,

Music in the Mishkan

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 4:00 PM

Music in the Mishkan, Sha'ar Zahav's chamber music concert series, celebrates its Tenth Anniversary! On January 25, join us for "*Juon for the Road*," the first of three performances, with Randall Weiss on violin, Victoria Ehrlich on cello, and Marilyn Thompson on piano. They will perform *Four Miniatures* (Paul Juon), *Piano Trio* (Anton Arensky), and *Piano Trio in D Minor* (Felix Mendelssohn).

The following concerts will take place on Sunday, March 8 (featuring music by Ernest Bloch) and Sunday, May 3 (featuring the music of Robert Schumann), all at 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$15/20 per performance or \$40/55 for the series (Member/General Public). Advanced purchases encouraged. Call 415-861-6932 to charge or visit www.shaarzahav.org to download an order form.

Jewish Mosaic - Participate in Important Research for LGBT Jews

Do you identify as LGBT and Jewish? Do you want to share your experiences about LGBT and Jewish issues in the Bay Area? Do you want to provide your input on how to help the Jewish community respond effectively to LGBT people and needs? The results of this study will help Jewish community leaders to better understand and plan for what LGBT Jews want and need. It will also identify successes and barriers in community efforts to engage LGBT Jews.

We are looking for a diverse and broad sample of LGBT Jewish people, who are over the age of 18, to participate in either one hour, tape-recorded individual interviews or focus groups about these issues. All individual interviews and focus groups are confidential and will take place at an easily accessible location. To participate, please email research@jewishmosaic.org.

and others that you may want to suggest! All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Sarita Groisser at saritag1@aol.com

Welcoming Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

All are invited to join this vibrant, revitalized group as we work to make Sha'ar Zahav the most welcoming environment, to both new and longstanding members. Have an idea that you want to contribute? Simply want to build community amongst fantastic people? Come! Please contact Jim Acerra, jacerra@msn.com, or Marty Rawlings-Fein, marty@ftmsf.org for more details.

Looking for a job? Don't do it alone!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 7:30 PM

Finding a new job is never an easy process, and in today's economic climate, it may seem even more daunting. One way to make the work a little easier is to do it with other people. Come to our first meeting. More info on page 9. Please RSVP to Greg@shaarzahav.org.

Classes

Rabbi's Shabbat Morning Class

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Join Rabbi Angel to study and discuss critical and current topics in the Jewish and LGBTQ communities. All are welcome.

Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof! Justice, Justice Shall You Pursue: Rabbinic Ideas of a Just Society

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

For the rabbis of the Mishna and Talmud, *tikkun olam*—"establishing the world rightly"—was something that had to be incorporated into the very structure and fabric of Jewish society, into social, economic, and legal relationships. In this course, we will explore together some texts from Midrash, Mishna, Talmud and Maimonides' Code that deal with the just ordering of society in general and in specifics. Taught by Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

● Reflections on my First Year at Sha'ar Zahav



I'M TEMPTED to write this as a funny piece. This is, after all, the first congregation I've worked with that truly appreciates (or at least tolerates) my pavlovian need to pun.

But that would sell it short. And I don't want to sell anything short about serving as the cantor of this amazing congregation.

It is a rare experience I'm having here. The community is so open, passionate, genuinely caring, challenging in all the right ways, fun, exciting, inspiring. People ask good questions and want to hear real answers. There is a profound sense of the possible, a belief that worlds can open, wounds can heal, ideas can be born. I often see or hear something that stops me short: something kind or sweet or meaningful, an act of enormous generosity, some all-too-rare-in-this-world moment of openness and vulnerability.

I thought I would get used to it. I haven't yet. Hope I don't.

The year has been filled with a wealth of experiences: mentoring—and being mentored by—service leaders, making music with the plethora of outstanding musicians in our community, pre-marital counseling with couples who have worked at their love for decades, extraordinary prayer moments and co-leading experiences, time with our thoroughly inspiring B'nei Mitzvah and young folks in the Beit Sefer, translating Hebrew poetry and poring through song possibilities for the new siddur, Chanukah, Shabbat Shira, Purim, Pesach, Pride, Tisha B'Av, SFOP, Ritcom, High Holy Days, working with beyond admirable fellow staff and lay leaders . . . as I reflect on the year, it is impossible to select particular highlights—it feels like one big highlight, everything special, memorable, nothing more so than another.

I'm starting now my round of "second"s, and it's seeming so far that it will be as with the Interfaith Thanksgiving

Politics and Judaism

(continued from page 2)

delegates, which I believe is a function of our national recognition through CBCO - a congregation-based community organizing, i.e. our SFOP work. The responsibility entails helping to set the priorities for our movement's social justice work I hope that my service will bring honor and pride to our community.

Together let us continue to stand up, each in our own way, but together, supporting one another in our commitment to social justice. In this way we will truly create meaningful and lasting change.

Service—even richer the second time around, the knowledge and experience from the previous year lending towards more vibrant pictures and ideas of what can be. I have many goals for this year, but the overarching theme is to work as individuals and as a community to stretch our spirits—through music, through text, through learning, through prayer. To explore our souls, play with our creative juices, discover and re-discover what gets us going.

In that, I hope you will be my cohorts. Lend me your visions. Let me know what works for you . . . and what doesn't. Strive together to grapple with the angels, sing our metaphors, branch our tree of life.

And together enjoy the particular fabulousness of this particularly wonderful community.

Cantor Unplugged II

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 21, 8:00 PM**

It's back! Cantor Sharon Bernstein and friends with some of her favorite music from across the Jewish (and non-Jewish) spectrum: art songs, musical theater, Yiddish, Israeli, Ladino, and more. Tickets are \$10/members, \$15/non-members.

Becoming B'nei Mitzvah



THESE past few months at Beit Sefer and in our community have been full of highs and lows. I feel proud that we have rallied as a

community and as a school to address the more difficult aspects of the election and to celebrate the successes. Through all the world events, we have continued on our path at Beit Sefer to build community and sustain Jewish learning.

One of the high points of the year has been the many Bnei Mitzvahs that we have celebrated this year. Each time we have a Bnei Mitzvah, I am impressed by the uniqueness of our community and our ability to instill the love of Jewish learning in our youth. The CEB (Child Education Board), myself and the clergy have spent the last year refining our Bnei Mitzvah program so that the experience is user-friendly and meaningful for the whole family.

We have completed a new Bnei Mitzvah guide that will be sent to all the families. This is a useful guide for those that are going through the Bnei Mitzvah process. It also offers a wealth of information for those who will go through the process in the future.

One of the most important features of our Bnei Mitzvah process is the mentor program. The mentor will begin working with your child eighteen months before the date of their Bnei Mitzvah and is a combination of a coach, friend and tutor. I hear over and over again that this process is so valuable for both the mentor and the mentee. We are always on the lookout for new mentors, so if you are interested, please contact me so we can discuss what is involved. It is never too soon to think about who the appropriate mentor is for your child, so if you have a community member in mind, don't hesitate to ask them. If you find a mentor, please keep me and Ilana Bernstein in the loop.

There are many important skills that a student receives through going through the Bnei Mitzvah process. They learn how to service lead, they learn

trope and how to leyn from the Torah, and they write a drash that interprets their Torah portion and draws from their life experience. All of these mitzvot are important to the Bnei Mitzvah process. However, becoming a member of the community is an equally important component of the process. We do not view the Bnei Mitzvah as an end to a Jewish education but as an opportunity for youth to get more deeply involved in synagogue life.

There are a myriad of ways that teens can increase their involvement post-Bnei Mitzvah. They can service lead on Shabbat or the High Holidays (and they are required to do this at least once), they can take classes through Beit Sefer or Adult Education, they can join a committee, join the Galei Limudim (adults who prepare special classes for students), or become a madrich (assistant in Hebrew classes). We have developed a Bnei Mitzvah program that focuses so much on community involvement because we want our students to both step up to the bimah but also step up to becoming active members of our community.

I look forward to sharing the simcha of our upcoming Bnei Mitzvahs!!!

See you at Beit Sefer!!

B'Shalom,
Rebecca

CALENDAR

FAMILY

FIRST FRIDAY

Friday Night Live—A Family Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Calling all Kids! Bring yourselves and your favorite grown-ups to celebrate Shabbat with us. We invite you to stay after for dinner. We will provide pizza, but we encourage you to bring a vegetarian dish to share. If you wish to sponsor a future FNL dinner, please contact the synagogue office, 415-861-6932. Designed for children 0 to 6 years, but all are welcome as Isaac Zones and Daniel Meyer-O'Keeffe lead us on a dancing, singing, stomping, laughing Shabbat time.

Second Friday

East Bay Chavurah

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 6:00-9:00 PM;

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 6:00-9:00 PM

We invite your entire family and your friends (non-members warmly welcomed) to CSZ's East Bay Chavurah. Our evening begins with a vegetarian/vegan potluck as we share blessings and check in, while singing, eating, and enjoying each other's company. At

BEIT SEFER DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY 3

Shabbat Class

JANUARY 7

Wednesday Class

JANUARY 10

No Shabbat Class

Community Wide Havdallah

JANUARY 14

Wednesday Class

JANUARY 17

No Shabbat Class

MLK Holiday

JANUARY 21

Wednesday Class

JANUARY 24

Shabbat Class - Tot

JANUARY 28

Wednesday Class

JANUARY 31

Shabbat Class

FEBRUARY 4

Wednesday Class

FEBRUARY 7

Shabbat Class—Vera Williamson-Bat Mitzvah

FEBRUARY 9

Tu B'Shevat

FEBRUARY 11

Wednesday Class—

Tu Be'Shevat

Celebration

FEBRUARY 16

No Shabbat Class

Presidents Weekend

FEBRUARY 18

Wednesday Class—

Spiritual Quest

FEBRUARY 21

Shabbat Class—Tot

Shabbat

FEBRUARY 25

Wednesday Class

FEBRUARY 28

Shabbat Class

B'nei Mitzvah



Vera Williamson will become a Bat Mitzvah on February 7, 2009. Vera attends Lipman Middle School in Brisbane as a 7th grader.

Vera is passionate about sports. She plays soccer, futsal (two teams this coming winter), basketball and softball with her Brisbane friends whom she has

known for a long time. She also likes math and science. In her spare time, she likes to play the drums which she has been playing for almost four years. For her Bat Mitzvah project, Vera chose to raise funds for an organization called Cats in Crisis.

Vera is being mentored by Deborah Levy who is also helping her with her drash. To further help with her preparations, Vera has assembled a bimah at

her home and has led Friday night services for her family. Since Vera has no way to get to Wednesday Hebrew school, she is being tutored by Ila Cherney who visits every week.

One of the great strengths of CSZ is that it allows congregants to assume the role of service leaders on the bimah. Vera has had supportive co-leaders in the two services she has been in so far, and is looking forward to her Bat Mitzvah.

around 7:30, adults (and teens) are invited to continue our Shabbat experience with some meaningful text-based Jewish dialogue. We invite parents of young children to take advantage of our childcare during this time. To RSVP or host a future event, please contact Richard Weiner, 510.531.7660, or Sue Bojdak, 510.530.9955.

week there will be drash performed by a different class. Let the ruach begin!!!!

Tot Shabbat

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 10:30 AM; SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 10:30 AM
Families with tots come to-

gether monthly for a program that includes prayer, challah baking, arts & crafts, music & movement, and storytelling. Tot Shabbat is a wonderful opportunity to build community with a diverse group of Jewish families. Tot Shabbat is open to both members and the general public.

Social Justice Community Wide Havdallah

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 6:00 P.M.
POTLUCK DINNER

The program will include intergenerational workshops that explore social justice. An interactive Havdallah program closes the evening. This program takes the place of regular Shabbat classes. Beit Sefer students are expected to attend. Contact Kendra Lubalin, kendra@shaarzahav.org, for more details.

Third Friday Shabbat Ruach

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 6:00-7:15 PM

The monthly Kabbalat Shabbat Program, which meets every third Friday, is a rocking ruach(spirit)-filled Shabbat service led by former Camp Tawonga Director, Deborah Newbrun and Isaac Zones of Friday Night Live fame. Join us for a pizza dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by services from 6:30 - 7:15 pm. Family and class participation will be a staple of this service and each



Andréa D. Guerra Photography

B'nei Mitzvahs, Weddings, Civil Ceremonies,
and other life cycle events

You can view my images in the Oneg Room and on my web-site:

www.andreadguerra.com

Please contact me at 415.845.6800
andrea.d.guerra@gmail.com

Tough Times

(continued from page 3)

non-Sha'ar Zahav members. Several people have also ordered our new Siddur. Thanks to a few very generous donors, all of the proceeds from Siddur sales and book plates go right to our bottom line. And, we have also been steadily adding new members and their families and will continue to focus on welcoming all those who value our engaging and innovative community. Our membership numbers are now, in fact, higher than at any other time in our history.

We also need *your help* to keep our shul strong. We have always asked members to provide financial support to the best of their abilities. Especially in these challenging times, we hope you will support Sha'ar Zahav as you are most able—not just with regard to dues, but with additional support during our annual Rainbow Campaign which will begin in February. The funds raised during this appeal are crucial to covering our annual budget. We know that this year, some of you will have to give less because of your own financial challenges. We still honor and appreci-

ate your participation and efforts and the many other rich ways you can and do give. As in the '80s, we hope that those of you who are relatively immune to the severity of the economic downturn can and will provide increased financial support.

There is so much to love and hope for in our future. Last night, I attended a Friday Night Live service which at one point featured 26 tots with arms in the air, spinning like dreidels. The Kabbalat Shabbat service which followed was attended by several new people who have only recently moved to San Francisco and are eager to join our shul. This morning, a bat mitzvah service co-led by Reuben Zellman, our Rabbinic Intern, and Howard Steiermann featured a drash by an exquisitely talented young woman, Lisa Windesheim-Zigas, who found and sometimes sang contemporary lyrics to teach us the truths of her torah portion.

In January, Randy Weiss will be welcoming us to the 10th anniversary of our Music in the Mishkan series. And in February, Cantor Bernstein will recreate her magical, "Cantor Unplugged" evening. Meanwhile, the

Adult Education committee continues to expand classes and our local SFOP group continues to build our special brand of Tikkun Olam. And although there's a little problem with civil weddings for the moment, all those other life cycle events keep happening.

Toward the end of today's bat mitzvah service, Rabbi Angel led us all in singing very gently a few lines of John Lennon's "Imagine" I, for one, am committed to continuing to imagine and strengthen our Sha'ar Zahav community. As individuals and as a community, we face tough economic challenges. This too we shall survive—because we have to. Many people have contributed to bring us to where we are—and our children and generations to come need what we have created. Leadership is going to carefully manage the economic balance, but it will take our combined efforts: to provide support for each other in meeting individual challenges—and in providing the necessary resources for Sha'ar Zahav to continue as a supporting community. Thank you to each of you for doing all that you can do.



■ ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GOLDSTEIN, GELLMAN, MELBOSTAD, GIBSON, & HARRIS LLP

LEGAL HELP?

Contact David Gellman

ESTATE PLANNING – BUSINESS LAW – REAL ESTATE

LITIGATION – CONDOMINIUM CONVERSION

TENANCY-IN-COMMON – PROBATE

PERSONAL INJURY – EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

1388 Sutter Street, Suite 1000

San Francisco 94109-5494

Phone: 415-673-5600

Email: DGellman@g3mh.com

Beit Warszawa: Our New Sibling Congregation

By Barbara Cymrot and Karen Schiller

Before leaving on the Sha'ar Zahav trip to Eastern Europe last April, our group had talked about our feelings about going to Poland. Poland was a graveyard, as far as we were concerned, the place where three million Jews died, a place with a long—and continuing—history of anti-Semitism. We were there to mourn our dead.

Instead, we discovered Beit Warszawa Jewish Cultural Association, where a living, thriving progressive Jewish community is celebrated and supported. On our first night in Poland, we were greeted with open arms by Rabbi Burt Schuman and over twenty members of this vibrant community.

The mission of Beit Warszawa Jewish Cultural Association, founded in 1999, is to bring back to life the tradition of Progressive Judaism present in Poland before World War II. It is the only organization in Poland created specifically for the purpose of bringing liberal-minded people to Judaism.

Over and over again, we heard from people who had not been raised Jewish, but who had found out that they were in-

deed Jewish. Now they wanted to live as Jews and Beit Warszawa was making this possible.

A bright spot at Sha'ar Zahav's service commemorating Kristallnacht (the organized anti-Jewish riots in Germany and Austria, November 9-10, 1938) was when Rabbi Angel announced the beginning of a sibling relationship between Beit Warszawa and Sha'ar Zahav. This is an opportunity for all of us to ensure that Poland remains a home for a dynamic, growing Jewish community where the voice of progressive Judaism is heard.

Participants at the Kristallnacht service suggested ways we can support Beit Warszawa. Besides contributing money, ideas included donating our old siddurim, sending them copies of our new siddur, facilitating exchanges between their members and ours, and inviting Rabbi Schuman to be our scholar-in-residence. Watch the JGF and weekly emails for further information about ways to be engaged with Beit Warszawa, our new sibling congregation.

In the meantime, if you would like to send money, send your donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, marked for Beit Warszawa.

Beit Warszawa's website: www.beit.org.pl



Personalized Life Coaching

You're Motivated. You're Aware. Now let's focus on getting you there!

Shirli Millmond, B.S.B.A., is Certified Life Coach for personal health and wellness who has years of life coaching experience backed by knowledge, skills and formal training in Olympic sport, athletic coaching, special education and business administration.

I believe, first and foremost, that YOU CAN accomplish what you set out to achieve!

Did your childhood upbringing emphasize how you couldn't do this or that? Had your parents and mentors only forecast your failure? Are you still hearing their negative words? I work with individuals who would like to start saying that they CAN! I help them to realize that love, family AND a career is no longer a forbidden goal.

Soon, you will be making decisions in life from a feeling of power—not because you haven't any choice in important personal matters. Remember that every difficulty that you encounter can create an opportunity to grow, learn and become stronger!

Each journey begins with but a single step. You are just a phone call away from taking it.

Shirli Millmond

Strategic Life Balance, LLC

"The right coach for you!"

Tucson AZ 85718

1-866-557-3075 | 1-520-302-8551

Chesir/Stein Music Fund

Marsha Blachman in honor of Phil Charney's Rosh Hashanah Torah Reading.

General Fund

Jessie Ap'neva & Nina Wouk

in memory of Diana Robbins.
in memory of Fran Barnett.

Victor & Norma Bellino in memory of Charlie Hart.

Allan Berenstein in memory of Norman Katz.

in memory of his father, Harry Berenstein.

in memory of Forrest Kincade, Don Albert, Chuck Norton, Nicholas Papadopoulos & Allan Craig.

James Carlson in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

in memory of Norman Katz.

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman

in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

Marc & Rebecca Dembling

Lisa Finkelstein "From a good moment".
in memory of her aunt Gertrude.
in gratitude, appreciation and thankfulness to the CSZ staff.

Linda Frost in honor of the marriage of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum.

Avraham Giannini in honor of Nina Wouk's article in the Gaily Forward.

Avi Goldberg & Will Garcia in memory of Norman Katz, z"l.

Jewish Community of Amherst in support of the Siddur project.

Rabbi Valerie Joseph in memory of Walter Steirman.

Elizabeth Katz in memory of her mother, Dorothy Katz.

Ron Lezell in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.
in memory of Norman Katz.

Marc Lipschutz in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.
in memory of Norman Katz.

Steve Mazer in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

Richard Meyerson in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

Leslie Miessner in memory of Recha Wertheimer.

Ron & Ruth Miguel

in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

Florence & Steven Nacamulli in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.
in memory of Herma Krell.

Daniel Najjar in honor of the marriage of Martin Tannenbaum & Alex Ingersoll.

Jeanette Nichols in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

Janice Phillips in honor of Jack Phillips.

Jeff Piade in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

Lee Pollak in honor of Martin Tannenbaum & Alex Ingersoll's marriage.

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz

in memory of Norman Katz.
in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.
in memory of Terry Frazin.

Barbara Rinkoff & Ellen Murland in memory of Barbara's aunt, Elaine Lewis.

Gerald Rosenstein in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

Brian Saliman

Sharyn Saslafsky in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

Arthur Slepian & Gerry Llamado in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.
in memory of Norman Katz.

Susan Stevenson & Joyce Norcini in memory of Norman Katz.

Sam Thal in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.
in honor of Alex & Martin.

Judith Wolfe & Jennifer Hughes in appreciation of Rabbi Angel's advice and counsel regarding their marriage. with love and deep appreciation for Susan Schwartz for performing their wedding and making it so special.
in honor of the marriage of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum.

Judith Wolfe in appreciation of the Cantor and all of the leaders at High Holiday services.

Gay Young & Daniel Schindler in honor of the marriage of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum and their commitment to Judaism.

Michael Zimmerman in memory of Norman Katz.

Ami Zusman in memory of Norman Katz.

in memory of Terry Frazin.
in honor of the marriage of Lisa Katz & Sharon Heath.

in honor of the marriage of Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz.

High Holidays 5769 Sponsorships

Manny Fishman & Leslie Kane—Bimah Flowers

Richard Meyerson—Bimah Flowers

Walter Leiss—High Holiday Onegs

Alex Ingersoll and Martin Tannenbaum—Stained Glass Window Art

High Holiday Donations

Deborah Levy in honor of Alex & Martin's love and marriage.

Barbara Wezelman in honor of the staff who arranged a Kol Nidre ticket for her cousin.

High Holiday Donation Pledges

Donald Abrams

Emanuel Anes

Anonymous (1)

Anonymous (2)

Jessie Ap'neva & Nina Wouk

Dan Bellm

Ruthy Bennett

Larry Best in honor of our amazing Cantor, Sharon Bernstein.

Elliott Block

Donna Blow & Nancy Muller

Susan Bluer

Bruce Blumberg

Meryl Brod in gratitude for Yom Kippur services.

Diana Buchbinder & Jeane Redsecker

Patricia Byers

James Carlson

Helen Dannenberg

Leonie Darwin

Bevan Dufty

Ron Edelman

Steve Elman in memory of Charles Hart.
in memory of Sadie Katz.
in appreciation of Rabbinic Intern Reuben Zellman, Rabbi Camille Angel, and Cantor Sharon Bernstein.

Flavio Epstein

Deborah Farkas

Lisa Finkelstein

Louise Fischer

Fox Frohlich & Luca Cerbu

Steven Gaynes

Avraham Giannini

Kim Gitnick

Allan Gold

Marshall Gold

Cara Goldfader

Beth Goldstein

Tova Green in memory of mother,
Martha Schwartz.

Sarita Groisser

Tony Harris in honor of the CSZ Fund
Development Committee.

Lawrence Helman in honor of the birth
of his great nephew, Ayan Micah
Mishkin.

Erik Henriques

Judith Hibbard-Mipaas

Marjorie Hilsenrad

Judith Holiber & Kim Warsaw

Judith Huerta

Michael Hulton

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum

Ethan Kaiser

Jo Ellen Green Kaiser

Batya Kalis

Scott & Lynn Kaplan

Terry Kraus

Shelley Lazar in honor of Dr. Donald
Abrams & Mr. Clint Werner.

Joan Lefkowitz & Stacey Shuster

Walter Leiss

Craig Levine

Late Levine & Charlene Akers in honor
of Cantor Sharon Bernstein.

Deborah Levy

Eileen Levy & Jay Dicker

Ron Lezell

Bea Lieberman

Jeffrey Lilly

Marc Lipschutz in memory of his father,
A. Martin Lipschutz.
in memory of his uncle and aunt, Victor
& Frances Barnholtz.

Gerry Llamado

Micah Lubensky

Mark Mackler & Wendell Choo

Merle Malakoff & Gina Surber

Billie & Ryan Buchholz Mandel

Sari Martens

Daniel McGoldrick

Kathy McHenry & Cynthia Navarro

Arthur Meirson

Nancy Meyer

George Mintzer

David Mishook & Meg Keene

James Moser

Florence & Steven Nacamulli

Jeanette Nichols

Reene Ogus

Hal Podgur

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz

Susanne & George Revutsky

Jacob Robinson

Nurit Robinson

Dav Ruach

Paul Rubenstein

Carol Russak

Sharyn Saslafsky

Karen Schiller

Susan Schwartz in honor of all who
participated in making the High
Holiday services so special.

Peter & Anne Silverberg

Stefan Spielman

Dana Stoloff

Sam Thal

Julie Trell

James Van Buskirk

Dana Vinicoff

Randy Weiss

Helene Wenzel

Rebecca Wieder

Debra Wilensky in memory of her
mother, Sabina Wilensky (Shima bat
Chira).

Sharon Wilensky

Nancy Windesheim & Eric Zigas

Judith Wolfe

Frank Yellin

Ami Zusman

In-Kind Donations

Batya Kalis For donating a shelf of books
on women, gender and Judaism to our
library.

Phyllis Mintzer Education Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of Phyllis
Mintzer.

Barbara & James Mahon in memory of
Phyllis.

George Mintzer in memory of Phyllis.

Judith Wolfe & Jennifer Hughes in
honor of their wedding.

Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund

John Arnold as a Hanukkah gift for
Jonathan Funk.

James Carlson in memory of Arthur
Carlson, Filippo Tuzzolino and Robert
Roginski.

Marcia & Barnett Eskin in honor of Jon
Funk and John Arnold's wedding.

Joel & Melody Funk in honor of the 60th
birthdays of Dan Funk & Marcia Gittes.

Jonathan Funk in appreciation of
Cantor Bernstein.

in honor of the 60th Birthdays of
Daniel Funk & Marcia Gittes.

in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

in memory of Norman Katz.

in honor of the marriage of Matt
Colman & Lisa Eddy.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Dan Bellm in thanks to Rabbi Camille
Angel's wonderful presence and leader-
ship in connection with Proposition 8.

Donald Fischer in honor of Arthur &
Gerry's wedding.

in honor of Alex & Martin's wedding.

Manny Fishman & Leslie Kane

in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

Jonathan Funk in appreciation of Rabbi
Angel.

Tova Green in memory of Sadie Katz.

Sara Haber & Beth Sousa in support of
Beit Warszawa.

Charles & Linda Hart in honor of the
wedding of Neil Hart & David
Wasserman.

Michael Hulton in support of Beit Warszawa.

Lisa Inman & Alisa Gilden in honor of
Rabbi Angel for officiating their 3rd
wedding & their 1st baby naming.

Ellen Klutznick in honor of Deborah Levy.

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz
in appreciation of Rabbi Angel's
officiating of their civil ceremony.

Barbara Rinkoff & Ellen Murland
in honor of Rabbi Angel on the
occasion of their wedding.

Jonathan Strober & William David Holt

Fred & Irene Tannenbaum For Rabbi
Angel's extraordinary compassion and
support at the time of our loss.

Michael Tyler & Amy Schustack
in memory of Herma Moser.
in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

Larry Wexler in support of Beit Warszawa.

Lydia & David Zinn in memory of
Norman Katz.

in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

Rainbow Fund

Bernard Choden & Lois Scott in memory
of Charlie Hart.

Social Action Fund

Diana Buchbinder & Jeane Redsecker
in honor of Paul Cohen.

October 2008

3/4

Friday Night Live Dinner Generously Sponsored by **Sharon Dulberg & Ilana Drummond**

Bimah Flowers & Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Joan Goldman** In memory of her father, Al Goldman, on his yahrzeit.

10/11

Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Alisa Gilden & Lisa Inman** In honor of their civil ceremony.

24/25

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **The Ross Trupin Family** In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Maia Ross Trupin.

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Michael Bettinger & Robert Goldstein** In celebration of the 21st anniversary of their kiddushin.

Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **Edie & Stan Ross and Adele & Jerome Trupin** In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Maia Ross Trupin.

31/ November 1

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Richard Meyerson** In honor of our right and obligation to vote on Tuesday [Nov. 4, 2008], and our ability to defeat Proposition 8.

Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **Alisa Gilden & Lisa Inman** In honor of the Hebrew naming of Shaya Inman-Gilden.

November

7/8

Friday Night Live Dinner Generously Sponsored by **Bevan Duffy**

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Sybil Meyer** In memory of her mother, Margot Bernstein.

21/22

Bimah Flowers, Friday Oneg and Saturday Kiddush Generously Provided/Sponsored by **The Ryan-Levine Family** In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Ryan.

New Members

We warmly welcome the following new member to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav:

Deborah Holley; the **Landis Von Jones Family**: **Kimmy Landis**, **Torino Von Jones**, and their children **Golden and Sage Landis Von Jones**; **Cara Goldfader**; **Richard Mikles**; **Dana Stoloff**; **Jonathan Goldberg** and **Brady Dewar**; **Rebekah Evans** and **Jodie Cavinder**; **Jonathan Strober** and **William Holt**; **Ed Leddy**; and **Jessica Nall**, **Jonathan Frommer**, and **David Mizne**.

We also welcome back with open arms returning members **Bobbie Rosenthal**, **G'dali Braverman**, and **Leslie Einhorn** - but this time she returns with her partner **Jen Gandy** and their one year old daughter **Georgia**.

Births

Mazel Tov to **Ilana Drummond** and **Sharon Dulberg** on the birth of their daughter, **Ella Rose Drummond-Dulberg**, who was born on October 21. Also, Mazel Tov to **Micha Drummond-Dulberg**, who now has a baby sister!

Mazel Tov to our former program director, **Rabbi Renee Bauer** and her spouse, **Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman**. They are the now the proud parents of **Eliona Idit Zimbauer**, who was born on October 20.

Mazel Tov to **Sarah and Adam Orman**. They are now the proud parents of **Sander Elliott Orman**, born on Monday, November 10 at 4:34 am, weighing 7 lbs, 11 ozs.

Mazel Tov to **G'dali Braverman**, who is now the proud father of twins, **Ari and Ella Braverman**, who were born on November 19.

Namings

Mazel Tov to **Lisa Inman** and **Alisa Gilden** on their daughter, **Shaya Inman Gilden**, receiving the Hebrew Name **Chaya** in a lovely ceremony here at Sha'ar Zahav on Saturday, November 1.

B'nei Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to **Maia Ross Trupin** on becoming a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, October 25.

Mazel Tov to **Sam Ryan**, who rose to the bima as a Bar Mitzvah Saturday, November 22.

ZEPHYR
REAL ESTATE

WWW.RICHARDMEYERSON.COM

Weddings

Mazel tov to **Judith Wolfe** and **Jenny Hughes**, who were married on September 29, in their San Francisco home in a lovely, moving ceremony conducted by their dear friend (and Sha'ar Zahav member) **Susan Schwartz**, who was deputized for this very special occasion. Their closest friends participated and were witnesses to this joyful event.

Mazel tov to **Ora Prochovnick** and **Rena Frantz** who were married on September 21 with a small ceremony in their backyard, with friends and family in attendance and their two kids, **Tsipora** and **Shayna**, serving as witnesses. Ora and Rena have been married in the eyes of their friends, family, and religious community for 25 wonderful years.

Mazel Tov to **Lisa Inman** and **Alisa Gilden**, who got married by Rabbi Angel at Sha'ar Zahav on Friday, October 10.

Mazel Tov to **Barbara Rinkoff** and **Ellen Murland**, who got married in a lovely ceremony at Point Reyes on Monday, October 13.

Mazel Tov to **Daniel McGoldrick** and **David Lowe**, who were married on October 24 at Teatro ZinZanni.

Mazel Tov to **Ellen Novogrodsky** and **Stephanie Godt**, who got married October 28, at City Hall SF. **Tom Ammiano** was their fabulous (and funny) officiant. Their daughter **Chava** was their flower girl, and their son **Avidan** was their ring bearer and one of their witnesses! They had a beautiful ceremony surrounded by their extended family and friends.

Mazel Tov to **Neil Hart** and **David Wasserman**, who got married by **Rabbi Angel** in a beautifully moving ceremony in their back yard on Sunday, November 2.

Mazel Tov to **Janet Klein** and **Lisa DiGirolamo**, who were married on Sunday, November 2 in the arboretum.

Mazel Tov to **Ryan Buchholz Mandel** and **Billie Mandel**, who had their civil wedding on Thursday, October 30.

Mazel Tov to **Arthur Slepian** and **Gerry Llamado**, who were married in a lovely civil wedding ceremony by **Reuben Zellman** on Sunday, October 26.

Mazel Tov to **Nina Wouk** and **Jessie Ap'neva**, who renewed their vows with a

civil wedding on September 14.

Mazel Tov to **Jonathan Strober** and **William Holt**, who were married in a lovely ceremony on October 30 by Rabbi Angel here at Sha'ar Zahav.

Naches

Congratulations to **Andrew Ramer** who, on September 21, became a father through the adult adoption of David-Michael Searcy-Ramer.

Mazel tov to the Gandy-Einhorn family. On October 20, **Georgia Rose Gandy-Einhorn**, daughter of new members **Jen Gandy** and **Leslie Einhorn**, is now one year old!

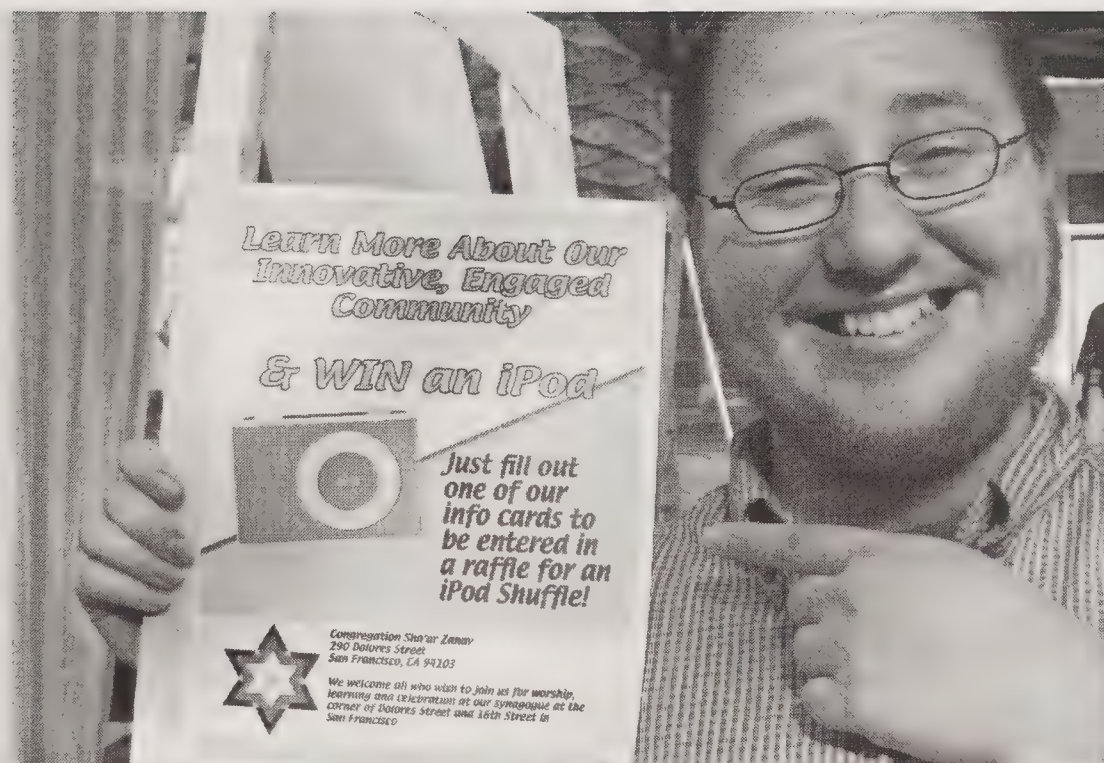
Yashir koach to **Dennis Ybarra** on the recent publication of *The Trouble with Textbooks: Distorting History and Religion*.

Yashir koach to **Liena Vayzman**, who curated the art show *Chance Operations*, which ran Saturday, October 26 at the Climate Theater.

Yashir koach to **Ora Prochovnick**, who recently received the Community Ally Award from the Transgender Law Center.

Yashir koach to **Anne Bluethenthal**, who co-choreographed *Dancing the Dead/Dharma*, which was performed on Saturday, November 1 at the Dance Mission Theater.

Thank you to all 43 Sha'ar Zahav members who showed up on Thursday, October 23 to participate in phonebank-



Welcoming Committee Maven
Marty Rawlings-Fein shows why
Sha'ar Zahav is such a fun place
at the **Castro Street Fair** last Fall.

ing for No on 8: **Eve Meyer**, **Sophie Macks**, **Judy Macks**, **Drew Parker-Rose**, **Flavio Epstein**, **Ora Prochovnick**, **Dana Vinicoff**, **Ruth Miguel**, **Leslie Miessner**, **Marci De Leon**, **Lydia Zinn**, **Elaine Weissman**, **Stacey Schuster**, **Joan Lefkowitz**, **Mara Schuster-Lefkowitz**, **Michael Sarid**, **Ellen Press**, **Nancy Levin**, **Joan Goldman**, **Nancy Levin**, **Mark Freeman**, **Deborah Levy**, **Daniel Ostrow**, **Susan Lubeck**, **Scott Kramer**, **Tsipora Prochovnick**, **Kevin Stein**, **Kathleen and Ernest Friedlander**, **Julia Weber**, **Erika Katske**, **Aaron Danzig**, **Amy Cunningham**, **Andy Schwartz**, **Gary Winter**, **James Moser**, **Nancy Kates**, **Sara Haber**, **Noam Szoke**, **James Carlson**, and **Reuben Zellman**.

Yashir koach to **Rabbi Camille Angel**, who received SFOP's "Who Do You Love" Award for embodying the organizing principal: *Challenge Deepens Relationship* in the struggle for marriage equality, Fall 2008.

Yashir koach to **Jenni Olson** on the completion of her new film, *575 Castro St.*

Yashir koach to **Marty Rawlings-Fein** who received UCSF's Dept. of Psych SuperStar Award for outstanding accomplishment/excellent service in the third quarter of 2008.

Tu b'Shevat: God in the Context, God in the Consequences

By Nina Wouk

for the Ritual Committee

God's time is not like mortal time. God moves faster than we do, in sub-microscopic nanosecond interactions, and slower, in eons-long evolutions. Our acts emerge from contexts of which we can know but little, and lead to consequences beyond our imagining. Yet awareness of context and consequence can help us in choosing how to act. This awareness comes hard. It means learning, during our little slices of life, to attune our urgent fears and eager desires to the cycles the encompass us.

Tu b'Shevat, the birthday of trees, exists because fruit trees grow at their own

rates. After planting a tree we have wait until it is strong enough to bear being harvested. Human effort can encourage or thwart growth, but cannot force it.

Equally, once a historical process is set in motion, its working out escapes human planning. Isaiah wrote in the name of God, promising political restoration:

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For just as the rain and snow descend from heaven and will not return there, rather it waters the earth and causes it to produce and sprout, and gives seed to the sower and food to the eater, so shall be My word... until it will have accomplished what I desired and brought success where I sent it.

Isaiah found God present in both the unseen, uncontrollable forces behind the natural world and the equally mysterious political struggles of his own day.

The earliest stories of the Bible reflect the need to live in both our own time and God's, and the tension between those needs. When Abraham, in his old age, sought to provide a wife for his only remaining son, he made his servant swear not to let Isaac marry a Canaanite woman. This is puzzling. God had promised Abraham descendants, and had promised that those descendants would inherit the land of Canaan where he lived as a landless stranger. What better way to bring this about than to marry his heir to the daughter of a local land-owner?

Yet Abraham rejected this easy solution. Over the course of his long life, he had seen enough of God's timing to know that it eludes our mortal impatience. God's promises emerged mysteriously and then lingered unfulfilled. Abraham and Sarah tried to force events

by letting Hagar become Abraham's second wife, but her son was not the one God intended to inherit the family burden and blessing. The easy-seeming solution brought complications, leaving God's solution still unknown.

When Isaac was finally born, God waited a few years and demanded him back. Abraham had learned by then to wait and see what God meant. He undertook an act that seemed to be no solution at all, rather an undoing of all God had given. He must have been sure that God's promise would not return empty, that the unthinkable command was part of a larger context, an act with unknowable consequences. He could glimpse and further those consequences only by being ready to kill his son. When the time finally came to find a wife for Isaac, Abraham knew that God's ways can be discovered only waiting for the unfolding of time.

We are not faced with incomprehensible commands to kill our children, although we risk them in wars, declared and undeclared. But we, like Abraham and Isaiah, live in chaotic times, and like all mortals we live only on the breaking edge of the present, depending on limited insight into both past and future. We often feel a great urgency in the work of *tikkun olam*, which our faith demands of us both in the pursuit of justice and in the mitzvah of self-defense. Ultimately the fruition of our efforts is no more up to us than is the fruition of a tree.

The kabbalists of Sefat must have understood this, when they designed the Tu b'Shevat seder to encompass all natural and historical evolutions, on all levels of experience. Whether we celebrate with a seder or not, Tu b'Shevat is a good occasion to contemplate the roots of the present and the ways our present may branch into the future.

Advertise in the JGF!

Support Sha'ar Zahav
& Introduce your business
to fellow CSZers

Take advantage of our low,
low rates plus a deep discount
for CSZ members!

1/6 page ad only \$55 for members
1/2 page ad just \$140 for members

Buy a year's worth and save 20%
Why wait? September is our
biggest issue.

Contact Jo Ellen (jgkaiser@earthlink.net)
Love talking to people?
Do a mitzvah and become
the JGF ad salesperson

Condolences

We extend heartfelt condolences to the following CSZ members on the death of their loved ones:

James Moser, on the death of his aunt, Herma Krell

Frank Yellin, on the death of his uncle, Harry Yellin

Lisa DiGirolamo and **Asa and Finch DiGirolamo Klein**, on the death of Lisa's grandmother, Maria Kanuaka

Rebecca Kramer, on the death of her cousin, Eugene Weinstein

Kevin Johnson, on the death of his friend, Barbara Sussman

Martin Tannenbaum, on the death of his brother, Larry Tannenbaum

Lisa Katz, on the death of her father, Norman Katz

Lisa Finkelstein, on the death of her Great Aunt, Gertrude Philippe Naster

Barbara Rinkoff, on the death of her aunt, Elaine Lewis

Rivkah Freund, on the death of her friend, reknowned AIDS activist Hank Wilson

James Carlson, on the death of his mother-in-law, Rita Roginski

Tony Harris, on the death of his second cousin, Adrian Williams

Member Yahrzeits

January

- 9 Jerome Davis
- 12 Phyllis Mintzer
- 18 Keith Fenton
- 20 George Ash
- 27 Bill Ashley-Dobbin
- 28 Sol Weinstein

February

- 1 Steven Richter
- 2 Cheryl Orvis
- 2 Stephen Walters
- 4 John Atteridge
- 6 Ronald Wilmot
- 9 Nathan Eli Weinstein
- 14 Barbara Rosenblum
- 15 Allan Ellis
- 17 Rabbi Jason Gaber
- 17 Ziggy Gimmicher
- 23 Leland Vogel

Nourish your values with your investments

- Comprehensive personal financial planning aligned with your progressive values
- Fee-only CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® specializing in Socially Responsible Investments
- Dynamic, principled, small business consulting
- Free initial consultation

Jim Frazin, CFP®, AIF®

415.337.4566

jf@shibboleth.com

Jim Frazin, is an Investment Advisory Representative of First Affirmative Financial Network, LLC, an independent investment advisory firm registered with the SEC.

Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives.

Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible.

We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

*Rabbi Camille
Shira Angel*

Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy

SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL *CHEVRA KADISHA*

San Francisco
1501 Divisadero St.
(415) 921-3636
FD 262

Lafayette
3415 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
(925) 962-3636
FD 1523

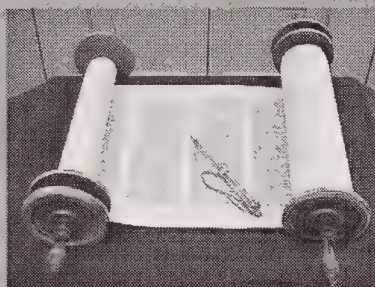
www.sinaichapel.org
Pre-need funeral
arrangements available

*Gene B. Kaufman, Executive Director
Helen Schwartz, Pre-need Counselor*

FOR ALL THINGS JUDAIC

Sha'ar Zahav

Candlesticks
Mezzuzot
Jewelry
Kiddush Cups



Matzah Covers
Tallitot
Kippot
Seder Plates

Gift Shop

Open 1st Friday, 7:30-8pm, all other weeks 6:45-7:20pm or by appointment. Call 861-6932.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street
San Francisco CA 94103

VOICE 415-861-6932

FAX 415-861-6081

EMAIL office@shaarzahav.org

WEB <http://www.shaarzahav.org>

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel



Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

San Francisco, CA

Permit # 12628

***AUTO**SCH 5-DIGIT 94114

290 Dolores St

San Francisco, CA 94103

94103



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				5 TEVET Office Closed New Year's Day	6 TEVET 6:00 pm Friday Night Live 8:15 pm Shabbat Service	7 TEVET 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
8 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	9 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	10 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	11 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	12 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Welcoming Com Mt	13 TEVET 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	14 TEVET 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service 5:30 pm Community Wide Havdalah
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	16 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	17 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	18 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	19 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 6:45 pm Va'ad Meeting	20 TEVET 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	21 TEVET 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
12	13	14	15	16	17	
22 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	23 TEVET MLK Jr Day Office Closed	24 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	25 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	26 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	27 TEVET 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	28 TEVET 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Tot Shabbat
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
29 TEVET 4:00 pm Music in the Mishkan	1 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	2 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	3 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	4 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:30 pm Ritual Committee Mt	5 SH'VAT 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	6 SH'VAT 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	8 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	9 SH'VAT	10 SH'VAT	11 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm SFOP meeting	12 SH'VAT 6:00 pm Friday Night Live 8:15 pm Shabbat Service	13 SH'VAT 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service Vera Williamson Bat Mitzvah
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	15 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	16 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Rabbi's Tzedek class	17 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	18 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Welcoming Com	19 SH'VAT 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	20 SH'VAT 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
21 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	22 SH'VAT President's Day Office Closed	23 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Rabbi's Tzedek class	24 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	25 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 6:45 pm Va'ad Meeting	26 SH'VAT 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	27 SH'VAT 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service 10:30 pm Tot Shabbat 8:00 pm Cantor Unplugged
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
28 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	29 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	30 SH'VAT 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	1 ADAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	2 ADAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 6:30 pm Ritual Com mt	3 ADAR 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	4 ADAR 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Siddur Sha'ar Zahav

Pre-Order Form

Yes! I would like to pre-order Siddur Sha'ar Zahav.
The siddur costs \$36.

☐ I will pick up my copies at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores Street.
Contact me when they come in. I have provided my email address or phone number.

☐ Please send me my copies. I have given you my address, and calculated and added in the cost for shipping and handling.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Email Address: _____

Best Phone (include Area code): _____

Street Address (no POB please): _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

If you live outside the U.S., please contact us at office@shaarzahav.org



Number of Copies? _____

Please multiply copies by shipping cost if you want them mailed to you.

Cost per copy _____ x \$36*

Cost for Siddurim _____

Shipping and Handling: _____ x \$10

Cost of S & H: _____

Total Cost _____

(Add shipping to Siddur Cost if shipped)

*Residents of California add \$2.61 per book; residents of San Francisco add \$3.06 per book.

Payment: Please make a check out to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and deliver to the office or mail to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco CA 94103. Payment may be made by credit card online at www.shaarzahav.org/siddur

